

Indiana High School Design Competition

VHS Technology Students named Finalist

April 26, 2004

Students in Gary Gray's Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA) class at Valparaiso High School recently participated in the Indiana High School Design Competition sponsored by the American Institute of Architects-Indianapolis Chapter in Indianapolis, Indiana. The design challenge was incorporated into the CEA classes unit study of Architecture.

A record number of entries (153) took part in this year's competition. Six students from Valparaiso High School's CEA class were named finalist – Adam Kepa, Danny Sontag, Nathan Jones, Nicholas Puaca, Walter Booker and Zachary Johnson. These students' design boards were on display for two weeks in the Artsgarden at Circle Centre Mall in downtown Indianapolis. They were exposed to invaluable academic and professional critiquing by the following distinguished group of judges:

Architects

Mark Demerly, AIA- Indianapolis Chapter

Tim Wall, AIA- Northern Indiana Chapter

Marcene Kinney, AIA- Central Southern Indiana Chapter

Dennis Marshal, AIA- Fort Wayne Chapter

Professors of Architecture

Brian Hollars – Ball State University, Instructor of Architecture

Father Richard Bullene, CSC – University of Notre Dame, Chairman

Laura Lucas – Purdue University, Lecturer of Construction Technology

The students were asked to role play the position of Project Architect and had to research significant architect's styles. These styles had to be incorporated into the design of an entrance to the Indiana State Museum on a theoretical site. The site had a ravine separating the museum from the primary road and the new structure had to be designed on a beam spanning the ravine. The Technology students from Valparaiso High School displayed many creative ideas. Their Design Boards are presently on display in the main lobby of the high school.

The awards ceremony took place in the Artsgarden with a presentation by Bill Browne of RATIO Architects, Inc. [Indianapolis] who was lead architect for the design and construction of the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis.



Students projects on display during presentation at the Artsgarden, Circle Centre Mall - Indianapolis